

Windstream Corporation
4001 Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, AR 72212

Jeffery R. Gardner
President and Chief Executive Officer

501-748-7700
501-748-7400 fax



August 7, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of Windstream, I appreciate the Committee's interest in the growing \$20 billion per year on-line advertising industry. As an S&P 500 company delivering communications and entertainment services to more than 3.2 million customers residing in 16 states, we place customer satisfaction at the top of our priorities. We share the Committee's objective of ensuring the protection of customer privacy.

Windstream engages in two commonplace practices that are potentially within the scope of Question 1, but are more likely unrelated to the core purpose of the August 1, 2008, letter. First, Windstream provides links and sponsored links in response to searches initiated at www.windstream.net or when an erroneous web-site address is entered into one's browser. Second, visitors to www.windstream.net receive cookies sponsored by an online advertising broker with which Windstream contracts. At certain web-sites, these cookies trigger advertisements for clients of the advertising broker.

With respect to other on-line advertising activities, Windstream's answer to Question 1 is No. Windstream does not and has not tailored, or facilitated the tailoring of, Internet advertising based on consumers' Internet search, surfing or other use. As such, our blanket answer to questions 2-11 is, "Not Applicable."

Windstream offers high-speed Internet access to more than 900,000 customers and has deployed the service to approximately 85% of our customer base. These achievements are remarkable considering that we serve primarily rural markets with fewer than 20 customers per square mile on average and receive less than 1% of our revenue from the federal Universal Service High-Cost program. We operate in a highly competitive environment and must search continuously for ways to: (1) improve the on-line experience for our customers, (2) maintain affordable monthly subscription rates, and (3) generate additional funds to finance further deployment to our remaining customers.

Given the recent debate surrounding online advertising, Windstream supports the Committee's comprehensive review of the practices employed by a variety of participants within the online advertising industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffery R. Gardner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeffery R. Gardner

Cc: The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
The Honorable Cliff Stearns